

BRITAIN IN DIRE STRAITS, FOOD RATIONS MUST BE CUT

The Weather Report

Increasing cloudiness, followed by snow late tonight or on Saturday, probably heavy snow Saturday; winds becoming north and northeast and increasing.

The Bridgeport Times

and Evening Farmer

VOL. 54—NO. 10

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1918

The Liberty Bond

Do you own a bond? Do you want to know all about the bond you own? Follow the Liberty Bond articles. See Page 6.

PRICE TWO CENTS

CENTRAL POWERS WITHDRAW PEACE TERMS OFFERED AT BREST-LITOVSK; RUSS ARMY STOPS DEMOBILIZATION

DEPARTMENT STORES IN CITY AROUSED BY CALL TO CURTAIL THEIR HOURS

Slight Relief Given Coal Situation Today by the Arrival of Barges of Hard and Soft Coal—White Way Lights Kept Burning Despite Siemon's Requests—Big Stores Feel Injury Will Be Done Their Business Interests While Smaller Stores and Other Concerns Violate Demands With Immunity.

"We are trusting to God in the daytime and praying to God at night," is the way Chairman Carl F. Siemon expressed the Bridgeport Fuel Committee's hope for relief, when interviewed by a representative of The Times today.

Slight relief was given to both the domestic and industrial situations today by the overnight arrival of three barges of hard coal, seven barges of soft coal, also 20 carloads of soft coal, which extends the city's supply to five days at the most.

Much criticism was directed at the city and the United Illuminating Co. today by merchants, who following an order from Chairman Siemon, relative to the curtailing of store hours, feel that the city or the company are doing nothing to conserve fuel, inasmuch as no attempt has been made to shut off a single white way lamp since the measure became effective.

It was suggested by a prominent merchant that if the committee urged the stores of smaller stores scattered about the city to close at the hour the larger stores close, much more fuel would be conserved than by chopping off an hour each day from the hours of the larger stores.

The merchants are also aggrieved to think that they are asked to conserve, while the white way lamps are left burning from 5 o'clock in the afternoon until 6 or 6 o'clock in the morning. Several of the large department stores shut off their lights promptly at closing time, even the advertising display lights.

Pending the arrival of more coal, the fuel committee is spreading the supply over as large an area as possible. (Continued on Page 2.)

FILE DEMURRER IN FRIZZEL'S DIVORCE CLAIM

In a demurrer to the complaint in the divorce suit of Charles R. Frizzel of Norwalk, against Elizabeth Roberts Frizzel of the same place, Attorney Carl Foster, for Mrs. Frizzel, asked that practically the entire complaint, with the exception of one or two items, be thrown out. This motion was joined with a motion to expunge, and was argued before Judge Malbie in the Superior court today. Judge Malbie reserved decision.

The affairs of the Frizzels have been before the courts for about a year, following their marriage several years ago in Nashville, Tenn. The present action for divorce was filed by the husband last November, and alleges intolerable cruelty. It is to most of the particulars in this complaint the demurrer was filed.

Last spring Mrs. Frizzel sued her husband for alienation of affections, but failed to win her case in court.

Among the allegations of cruelty in the divorce complaint is one that Mrs. Frizzel one day in Norwalk pulled her husband's nose, and another that she struck him in his mother's room. Other allegations are that she humiliated him in Dallas, Texas, by going to a picture show with "John Doe," that in Nashville she failed to mail a letter containing a money order, and frequent fits of temper are alleged. Frizzel is now in the army and expects orders to go abroad.

SLIDE BODY OF INJURED WOMAN OVER ICY WALK

Unable to raise the unconscious form of Mrs. Arthur Collins from the pavement, at Hancock and Maplewood avenues, where she had fallen, because of the slippery condition of the walk, Dr. J. P. Keegan of the Emergency hospital and his assistants were forced to slide her body to a place where they could get a safe foothold, before she could be placed on a stretcher to be removed to St. Vincent's hospital.

Mrs. Collins who resides at 415 Dewey street while on her way to a grocery store fell heavily to the walk and sustained a severe concussion of the brain. At the hospital where she was taken slight hope of her recovery is entertained.

COLLECTORS OF INCOME TAXES IN NEED OF AID

Unless more volunteers come forward to help the income tax collectors in the work of gathering the shekels for Uncle Sam within the next few days the work of the three overworked collectors here will be seriously handicapped and as a consequence the work cannot be completed as rapidly as expected.

The filing blanks have not arrived in Bridgeport up to the present time, but all possible preparation is being made for a record breaking business when they do arrive. Volunteers are needed now to be broken into the system so that when the rush begins everything will be handled smoothly and efficiently.

When seen today Tax Collector Mitchell said: "From all appearances the amount of money which will be collected here will be enormous, but of course I cannot even give approximate figures. We have been busy with the auditors of the largest plants around here and by the time actual collecting begins we will have a good start with the work."

ORDINANCE REGARDING ICY WALKS NOT BEING ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

Censure has been directed to the police department during the past few days for its failure to enforce the city ordinance requiring residents to have the walks in front of their homes in a safe condition 24 hours after a storm. From all parts of the city complaints are heard of the dangerous condition of sidewalks, and bones have been broken as a result.

Early in the week by order of the police superintendent an order was read to all patrolmen requesting them to call on all persons who had failed to either remove the ice in front of their homes or cover it with sand or some other like substance. Whether or not the patrolmen took the order seriously is not known but the complaints regarding the icy walks continue to come to headquarters.

LOVED ART MORE THAN HER HUSBY

Her love for music and desire to devote her entire time to the study of her art led Alice L. Mertens, formerly a well known church singer in this city to desert her husband, Albert C. W. Mertens, and he was granted a divorce today by Judge Malbie in the Superior court.

Mertens said they were married in Bridgeport, October 12, 1897, and lived together for a number of years. Mrs. Mertens had engagements to sing in churches in New York, and Brooklyn, and was in the habit for a number of years of going to those cities Friday and not returning until Monday. He remonstrated, but it had no effect.

In 1913 Mrs. Mertens went to Asbury, New Jersey, and failed to return, although he visited her there, and wrote several times asking her to come back. She refused, although she replied to some of his letters. Finally she sent him a letter April 1, 1914, refusing to return to live with her husband.

Other witnesses corroborated the fact that Mrs. Mertens had not lived with her husband since that time, and Judge Malbie granted a decree.

ICE BLOCKADE IN SOUND BREAKING, SKIPPERS REPORT

Shipping men reported today that the ice jam in the Sound has been completely broken up by the favorable winds prevailing for the last few days and with the exception of a stretch on the south shore conditions are fast assuming a normal state. No less than nine barges laden with coal towed by five tugs arrived in port last night and a great number with other cargoes are expected.

All of the inner basin of Bridgeport harbor has been cleared of ice and the approaches to the various docks are entirely clear, so that the tie-up is at an end. Many of the weather sharks along the water front express the opinion that we will not be frozen in again this year.

Work is progressing rapidly on the sunken steam barge "Mohawk" and the divers report that she will be raised in a very short while, as they have removed the major part of the six thousand bags of Portland cement which formed her cargo when she foundered near the Wheeler and Howes dock.

ORDINANCE REGARDING ICY WALKS NOT BEING ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

Since the severe weather, some days ago, walking has been more or less dangerous, according to the police department. More than a score of cases of injuries as the result of unclean and slippery walks have been cared for by the emergency hospital. Lack of information regarding a strict interpretation of ordinance regarding sidewalk walks has caused the members of the police force to be lax in the protection of walkers.

The ordinance is to the effect that every resident shall have the walks in front of his home or property in a safe condition after a storm. The department is in doubt as to whether or not it refers to ice which may form on a sidewalk after a thaw and from the removal of snow after a storm.

SEND MEN, CHURCHILL URGES U.S.

British Minister of Munitions Appeals For Speedy Transport of American Soldiers—English Must Cut Ration of Food.

London, Jan. 11 — Winston Spencer Churchill, British minister of munitions, addressing the American Luncheon Club today, made a powerful appeal for the sending of American soldiers to Europe.

The reception of Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson's war aims by the Central powers, the minister declared, showed a gulf that no bridge could span.

"We have found a complete agreement on our war aims," Mr. Churchill said, "so let us concentrate our whole souls on practical measures whereby those aims may be achieved."

England must melt all her resources he continued into war work. Women must draw nearer to the firing lines and do more manual labor to relieve workmen for the ranks of the army. Rations, he said, must be cut down.

"The only way to shorten the suffering and torment," the minister asserted, "is to increase the pace."

Referring to America's participation in the war, Mr. Churchill said: "You have accepted an immense responsibility. Never in history has so great a nation undertaken so great a task. Your aid is needed vitally in this great struggle and needed soon."

Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, presided at the luncheon which was attended by 200 persons. Those at the luncheon included Lord Northcliffe, chairman of the London headquarters of the British board of trade; Vice Admiral Sims, commander of the American naval forces in European waters; Robert Skinner, American consul-general in London; Gen. Bridges of the British general staff; Col. E. D. Swinton, one of the inventors of the British tank; Sir Thomas Lipton, and Sir Gilbert Parker, the novelist.

PREMIER HUGHES IS RESTORED TO GOVERNMENT JOB

Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 11—Several days of political uncertainty have ended with the re-installation in power of the Nationalist government, headed by William Morris Hughes. There has been no change in the make-up of the Hughes government. At one time it was thought that Frank Tudor, the Labor leader, would be commissioned by the governor general to form a Labor government.

Premier Hughes is criticised by the press and is accused of breach of faith by some politicians because of the pledge he gave at Bendigo during the recent referendum campaign that the Nationalists would not govern the country if conscription was defeated. The Australian voters returned a majority against conscription in the referendum.

A motion of no confidence has been introduced in parliament by Mr. Tudor.

HOLD WOMAN AS SPY

Hanford, Cal., Jan. 11—Elizabeth Guistoff was arrested here today and held on suspicion of being a German spy. Two sedition letters, one referring to Fort Grant, Ore., and the other to San Francisco, and the other a mysterious set of plans, were discovered in her possession.

TWO DYING AS RESULT OF FUMES

Four Members of Family Overcome By Coal Gas—Mother and 12-Year-Old Son Dying at Bridgeport Hospital—Others Recovering.

Poor ventilation of the heating system in the home of Walter Scott, of 284 Nichols street, caused the sleeping quarters in the home to become saturated with coal gas and as a result two of the family are in a dying condition. Mrs. Scott, and her son, Milton, aged 12 years, are at the Bridgeport hospital and no hope for their recovery is entertained.

The escaping gas was discovered about 3 o'clock this morning by Scott, who awoke, found himself in a dazed state. He attempted to arouse his wife but all efforts were futile. Attempt to arouse his son and daughter also proved of no avail. In a very weakened condition Scott succeeded in getting police headquarters and conveying the information that medical assistance was necessary.

Dr. Gavlas responded immediately and found that Mrs. Scott and her son were in an extremely serious condition and after all efforts to resuscitate them failed, he ordered them removed to the Bridgeport hospital. Scott and his 10-year-old daughter were attended at the home by Dr. Gavlas and their condition is reported favorable.

Scott informed the Emergency hospital attendants that he had fixed his furnace in the usual manner last night and that when he last saw the furnace at 10:30 there seemed to be nothing out of the way. Shortly after that time the entire family retired.

ITALIANS GREET WILSON MESSAGE AS EPOCHAL ONE

Rome, Thursday, Jan. 10—President Wilson's message is the first courageous step toward peace, says the Messaggero. It says President Wilson in his message evidently wanted to meet the Russian people and to help them to complete their resurrection.

The Tempo recalls that Italy, like the United States, freely entered the world war for reasons of principle. She has sustained enormous sacrifices to redeem her provinces still under Austrian rule and to obtain the safety of her frontier on land and sea, which alone can allow her "to live on a footing of equality under conditions of liberty."

The Popolo Romano praises the generous intentions of President Wilson and the American people and government. It eulogizes the declaration of the president concerning the solidarity of the Allies and says that as soon as Italy and France make similar statements, they will be the answers to the government of Lenin and Trotsky with which the Entente does not yet have diplomatic relations.

The Giornale d'Italia applauds the message and calls President Wilson "one of the greatest statesmen of our epoch." It expresses hope that the President's enlightened mind will see the necessity of solving definitely the Italian-Austrian problem in order to avoid future excuses for conflict.

WALL PAPER PLANT BURNS

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 11—The wall paper plant of the Jacob Thomas Co., one of the largest industrial plants in Newark, Del., was destroyed today by fire which originated in the ash pit. The loss is \$250,000.

SLAVS TO START DEFENSIVE WAR

East Front Will Be Barricaded Against Enemy Unless They Meet Demands, Says Lenin—Teuton Offer Now "Null and Void," Says Von Kuehlmann.

Amsterdam, Jan. 11—The Central Powers have withdrawn their peace terms made public at the Brest-Litovsk conference on Dec. 25, it was announced yesterday by Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary.

In his speech at the Brest-Litovsk meeting yesterday, Dr. Von Kuehlmann said that owing to the non-acceptance by the enemy powers of these peace terms, they "had become null and void."

Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, who has departed from Petrograd possibly to go to Stockholm, declared before leaving:

"I fear we shall have to stop the demobilization and prepare for war. If Germany and her allies do not accept our conditions of peace we shall declare a revolutionary war on them."

The correspondent emphasizes the importance of an agreement between the Bolshevik and Ukrainian negotiators, as the position of the rada has lessened Trotsky's chances for obtaining a satisfactory peace. He says that if the Germans could buy off the Ukraine the significance within Germany of Trotsky's stand would be cut in half. The correspondent adds that nothing is more foolish than to suppose that because the Ukraine opposes the Bolshevik it therefore favors the Allies and prosecution of the war.

Confirming Lenin's statement that the Bolshevik are preparing to re-establish the fighting power of the army against a possible final break in the negotiations with the Central Powers, a report states they are not attempting to reanimate the old worn out army, but to create a new and much smaller one. Concerning this new army, Foreign Minister Trotsky is reported to have said:

"It will wage not war, but revolution. Its front trenches will be barricades against oppressors."

The Bolshevik doubt whether the German soldiers will advance, but if they do and take more territory, they will be no nearer an end of the war. The greatest difficulties of the Bolshevik in these preparations are transport and supply, of which the former is the less hopeful question. Ensign Krylenko, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief, is reported to be organizing a volunteer army and has ordered all officers to return to the posts they held before the Bolshevik revolution.

In reference to the civil wars in different parts of Russia, they are not wars by one part of Russia against other parts, but attempts to spread class warfare in those parts where the proletariat has not yet obtained the upper hand. Thus, the Bolshevik are not warring against the Ukraine, but against the bourgeois Ukrainian rada; not with the Cossack country, but with the military government of the Cossacks.

BELIEVE 4 ARE LOST IN BLAZE AT MIDDLETOWN

Middletown, Jan. 11—It seemed likely today that four patients in the Connecticut insane asylum lost their lives in the fire yesterday that destroyed one of the large wings. Two bodies were recovered yesterday afternoon. One of these was identified, and Dr. F. C. Haviland, the superintendent, had listed three patients as missing with the hope that they would be found sheltered by some one in or around Middletown. The unidentified body was undoubtedly one of these. But no word came of them during the night and Dr. Haviland this noon felt that two of the bodies must be under the charred timbers and rubbish of the hospital wing.

Workers were steadily overturning the ashes on the fire site this forenoon, but no trace of the bodies was found during that time.

The state board of control came here and looked over the hospital. This board will make temporary provision in the matter of finances for the hospital. At the same time the board of trustees met to discuss future plans which include rebuilding of the wing.

DESERTERS HOLD UP RESTAURANTS AND RIFLE TILLS

New York, Jan. 11—John Linko, a 19 year old soldier of 32 Beechmond street, Torrington, Conn., was arrested here today on a charge of robbing restaurants in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. He was taken in company with another soldier, Adam Beckling of Brooklyn, by four detectives, who subdued the two men with drawn revolvers after the soldiers had drawn their army pistols and threatened the officers.

The arrest came as a result of complaints made by several restaurant keepers in the district recently that they had been held up by two soldiers and their tills robbed. At the police station the men admitted robbing restaurants after they were identified by two of their victims and stolen property had been found on them. Both men said they came from Camp Merritt, N. J., from which they had been deserters for 12 days.

New York, Jan. 11—Copper producers here received word from Washington today that an agreement had been reached with the federal authorities for the fixing of the price of copper at 23 1/2 cents a pound for the next four months.